

Artwork not for reproduction -
Please contact John Butterly.

WHAT'S IN THE HEDGE

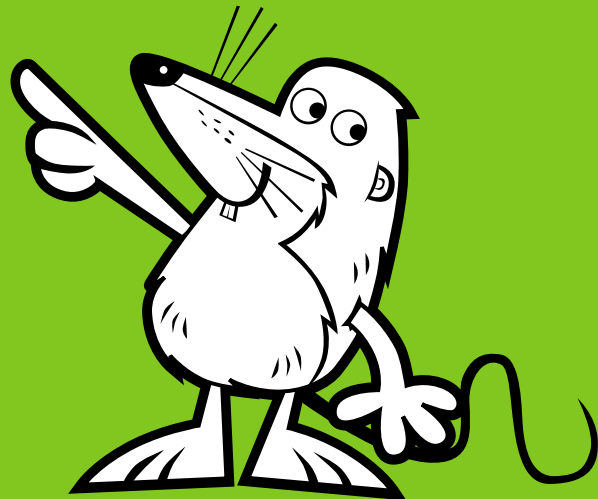
P U P I L W O R K B O O K 3



WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT.

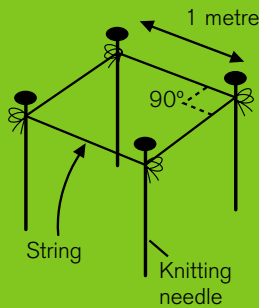
You are going to learn about the trees and shrubs that grow in the hedges along your canal and the plants and animals that live under them.

The hedge will also tell you a lot about its past and what it's useful for now.



WHAT WILL YOU NEED?

- identification poster 3
- this pupil workbook
- clipboards, pencils and rubber
- recording forms
- measuring tape or a piece of string and a ruler
- survey quadrats*
- metre rule
- * This is a square, 1m on each side, that you use to survey plants. There are instructions about how to use a quadrat in Task 3. You can make one with 4 knitting needles and wool/string tied around them to form a square.



Activity 1:
What's growing in your hedge?

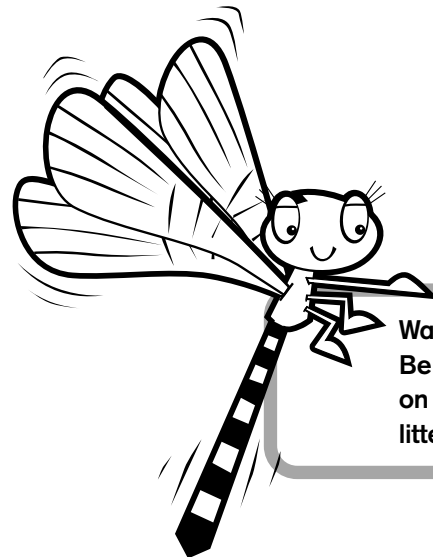


Look along your hedge and try to spot as many different types of leaves as you can.

Try not to damage the plants by picking leaves, fruit or twigs off the hedge. Wherever possible collect a fallen leaf from each type of tree or shrub or draw the shape of the leaf on a piece of paper - or make a rubbing of the leaf to identify later.

If you have to pick a leaf, try and only pick **one** per type of tree or shrub.

- ① Spread out all the leaves you've collected.
- ② Read the recording form below.
- ③ Identify your leaves using the identification poster. If your leaf isn't on it, try looking in plant identification books or on the Internet.
- ④ Tick the plants you have identified. If your tree or shrub isn't there, write it down on the bottom of the form.
- ⑤ Add up the total number of species you have identified in the stretch of hedge.



Name

Date

Length of hedgerow in metres

SPECIES

(Tick the box if you can find it)

Hawthorn

Blackthorn

Holly

Oak

Field maple

Sycamore

Hazel

Alder

Elder

Ash

Other: give name

Total number of species

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Activity 2:
Who’s living in your hedge?

Let's find out what sorts of plants
and animals live under your hedge.

COUNT THE PLANTS

- ① Start at one end of your hedge. Put your quadrat down on the verge.
- ② Count the number of different plants you can find within your quadrat.
- ③ Write the number in the first column.
- ④ Move your quadrat further along the verge and do the same thing, for column two, and so on.

QUADRAT POSITION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

How many different types of plant can you see?

Tick the box if the verge is mown.

COUNT THE ANIMALS

- ① Now look in and under the hedge in 10 different places and watch for signs of where animals have been, such as tracks, nibbled leaves, webs, trails
- ② Tick the table if you find any of the things listed. If you see something that isn't on the table, write it in "Other".

Animals and their signs can be very hard to spot!

QUADRAT POSITION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Spiders/spider webs

Butterflies, moths, caterpillars

Dragonflies or damselflies

Other insects

Mole hills

Birds, bird nests, feathers

Vole or mouse tunnels

Animal tracks

Nibbled leaves or branches

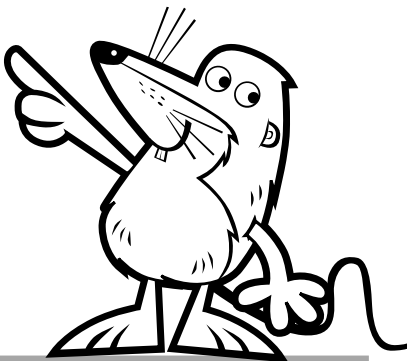
Other: (Write below)

Animals and their signs can be very hard to spot!



What use do animals make of a hedge?

Why is it important to look after the hedge?



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Activity 3:
What happened in the past?

Let's find out why the hedge was planted by the canal and what it is useful for now



WHY IS A HEDGE USEFUL?

- It provides shelter for people using the towpath
- It stops farm animals getting through
- It stops any animals getting through
- It stops people getting through
- It is an attractive edge to the canal
- It shows where land ownership changes
- It is valuable for wildlife
- It hides things on the other side of the hedgerow e.g. ugly buildings
- It shelters users of the canal from wind

Other: explain

THEN	NOW

How many trees are there in your stretch of hedge?

Number

If you can reach round it, measure the circumference of the tree with the widest trunk.
Use a tape measure to measure the circumference in centimetres (cm) at 1.5m above ground level if possible.

Divide this figure by 2.5, to give an approximate age for the tree.

Circumference (cm)

Divide by 2.5

Age



If you can, measure its height in metres.
If you can't measure it, make a guess.

How tall is your hedge?
(Make a guess if you cannot measure it)

Height (m)

What might people use to find out the age of the hedgerow?

- ☐ Old maps/canal records
- ☐ Circumference of tree trunks
- ☐ Width of the hedge
- ☐ Height of the hedge
- ☐ Number of different trees and shrubs in the hedgerow
- ☐ Ask a local person

How well is the hedgerow being looked after?

- Are there gaps?

☐ Yes

☐ No
- Has the hedge been cut?

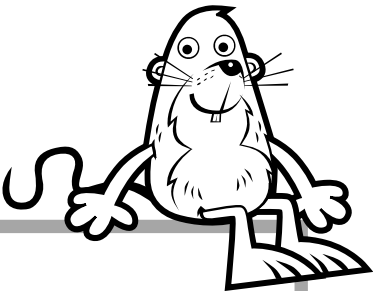
☐ Yes

☐ No
- If not, is there evidence it has been cut in the past?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What is this evidence?



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